

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01606 180818Z

10

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 127578

R 180705Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2801

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPACREP AUSTRALIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1606

EXDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IO, AS, OVIP (ADM. GAYLER)

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON DIEGO GARCIA  
EXTENSION

REFS: STATE 53211; CAIRO 964

1. ADMIRAL GAYLER (CINCPAC) HAD MOST USEFUL ROUND OF TALKS WITH KEY AUSTRALIANS DURING FOUR DAYS IN CANBERRA AND SYDNEY MARCH 13-17. CINCPAC HAS SUMMARIZED THESE DISCUSSIONS IN MESSAGE SENT THROUGH HIS OWN CHANNELS. HOWEVER, SPECIAL NOTE SHOULD BE MADE OF WHAT PRIMIN WHITLAM HAD TO SAY ON SUBJECT OF DIEGO GARCIA DURING CINCPAC AND MY CALL AT PRIMIN'S OFFICE MARCH 14. THIS IS MOST COMPLETE RECORD WE HAVE OF WHITLAM'S VIEWS ON THAT TOPICAL ISSUE.

2. WHITLAM SAID HE DID NOT LIKE DIEGO GARCIA EXTENSION, THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED IT WAS NOT AUSTRALIA'S AFFAIR. HE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WAHT U.S. WAS DOING, BUT HE DID NOT RPT NOT LIKE THOUGHTOF BUILDUP, RIVALRY, OR ESCALATION IN INDIAN OCEAN. HE ACCEPTED THAT BOTH SOVIETS AND AMERICANS CALMER IN APPRAISALS OF EACH OTHER'S INTENT THAN TEN YEARS AGO. BEST THING WOULD BE  
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PAGE 02 CANBER 01606 180818Z

IF U.S. AND USSR COULD COME TO SOME ARRANGEMENT AFFECTING

INDIAN OCEAN.

3. WHITLAM SAID U.S. CLEARLY COULD NOT LET THINGS IN INDIAN OCEAN GO BY DEFAULT. EVEN THOSE COUNTRIES LIKE AUSTRALIA, WHICH CAVILLED ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA EXTENSION DID NOT REALLY WANT U.S. TO LET THINGS GO BY DEFAULT IN INDIAN OCEAN.

4. WHITLAM NOTED THAT AUSTRALIA COULD NOT SUPPORT THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSAL AND AT SAME TIME SPEAK DIFFERENTLY OF DIEGO GARCIA. NEVERTHELESS, AUSTRALIA WAS NOT STARRY-EYED AND RECOGNIZED THAT IF THE GREAT POWERS DID NOT ACCEPT AND RESPECT IOPZ PROPOSAL, IT WAS SO MUCH WIND. BEST THING WOULD BE A LIMITATION ON NAVAL ACTIVITY AGREED TO BY U.S. AND USSR.  
GREEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, OVIP, XO, AS, US, (WHITLAM, E GOUGH), (GAYLER)  
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